

HIGHLAND MAIN STREET MEETING
Highland Town Hall- Highland, Indiana 46322
September 1, 2016 MINUTES

Call to Order

At 6:45 PM, the Highland Main Street (HMS) meeting was called to order by President Dawn Diamantopoulos at Highland Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road in Highland, Indiana.

Roll Call:

The following members of the 2016 Highland Main Street Board were present: Dawn Diamantopoulos, Marion Case, and Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro. Mario DeGeorge, Dan Dunn, Tracy Oprea, Alicia Rosignol, and Jen Duncan were absent. Others present included Philip McKie and via conference call, Theresa Pecsek.

Minutes:

Minutes from the March 3, 2016, April 7, 2016, May 5, 2016, June 2, 2016, and July 7, 2016 meetings were not approved due to the lack of a quorum. Lance Ryskamp, Redevelopment Commission Assistant, provided a written summary of the Festival of the Trail. It is attached.

Town Theatre

Cecile reported that the architectural firm, Morris Architects Planners, were completing the second phase of the plan for the theatre and cost figures should be forthcoming. She pointed out several changes from the first schematic design and stated that if/when the Redevelopment Commission approves Phase II, then the architects will begin Phase III. That phase will produce blueprints that will be sent out for bid. Once bids are returned, the Town Council will decide whether or not to move ahead with the project. If the timetable holds, there would be a possibility of starting construction in late fall. However, it is far more likely that construction will begin in the Spring of 2017. If the project is approved, then HMS will have a great deal of work ahead with volunteer recruitment, committee assignments, publicity, and working with the Town Theatre Board.

Highland Rookery

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the newly paved trail and parking lot will be on Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 6:00 PM.

Car Cruise

No report.

Festival of the Trail

Preparations are being made for the Festival of the Trail. More vendors are needed and entertainment. Poetry on the Sidewalk is moving forward and Lily Rex, Poet Laureate, is organizing that new project. Dawn stated that we are in need of a tent. Lance's report on the status of the Festival of the Trail is attached.

Cash Mobs

Dawn said she will check into the possibility of holding a cash mob event at One Best Life At Tinker's Attic on Highway Avenue.

Façade Improvement Grant

No new façade grants have been approved since the last meeting.

Municipal Parking Lot on the Corner of Highway and Kennedy Avenues

Cecile stated that she will contact Public Works to see if a small area can be planted this year based upon a plan developed by Theresa.

Art & Cultural District Plan

The plan was sent out to HMS with the agenda. Several questions were asked about the project. Cecile stated that it has been sent to NIRPC, the grant funding source, for their review. A follow-up meeting will take place with all parties and it is hoped that construction monies will be available to implement some of the plan.

Poet Laureate Program

Lily will oversee the sidewalk poetry for the Festival of the Trail.

Sculptural Tour of Highland

A committee of HMS and the Redevelopment Commission members selected the mural proposed by Liz Mares. It should be completed before the end of September. The committee is now seeking applications for the sculpture. The deadline for those proposals is September 30, 2016.

Coupon Program

Philip stated that he would be interested in looking into overseeing the coupon program. Cecile will connect him with Bridget DeYoung who ran that program previously.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Theresa and Philip may be interested in working on the caroling part of the tree lighting ceremony. We need to find those who attended last year to offer their insights into the program. Jodi from HGS will need to be contacted to see if she will once again lead the carols.

Reschedule October 2016 Meeting

Cecile asked if the members would be willing to change the date of the next HMS meeting due to a conflict that she and Lance from her office have with that date. The group decided that the next Thursday, October 13th would work since it is just before the Festival of the Trail and plans will need to be in place by that time.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.